The People's Korea

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President Exchanges New Year Cards with Foreign Leaders

President Kim Il Sung exchanged New Year cards with foreign party and state leaders, seeing in 1979, according to a KCNA report.

New Year cards came from: **Hua Kuo-feng,** Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China; **Yeh Chien-ying,** Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China; **L. I. Brezhnev,** General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet; **Henryk Jablonski,** President of the State Council of the Polish People's Republic; **Gustav Husak,** General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and President of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic; **Janos Kadar,** First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party; **Pal Losonczi,** President of the Presidium of the Hungarian People's Republic; **Todor Zhivkov,** First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and President of the State Council of the Bulgarian People's Republic; **Y. Tsedenbal,** First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and President of the Presidium of the Great People's Khural of the Mongolian People's Republic; General **Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq,** President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Chief of Staff of the Army and Chief Martial Law Administrator; **N. Sanjiva Reddy,** President of the Republic of India; **U Ne Win,** President of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma; **Benjamin Henry Sheares,** President of the Republic of Singapore; **Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah,** Emir of State of Kuwait; **Leopold Sedar Senghor,** President of the Republic of Senegal; **Julius K. Nyerere,** President of the United Republic of Tanzania; **Kenneth David Kaunda,** President of the Republic of Zambia; General **Felix Malloum Ngakoutou Bey-Ndi,** President of the Republic of Chad; Queen **Margrethe the Second** of Denmark; **Anton Buttigieg,** President of the Republic of Malta; **Arthur Chung,** President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; **Linden Forbes Samson Burnham,** Leader of the People's National Congress and Prime Minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; **Nicolae Ceausescu,** General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and President of the Romanian Socialist Republic; **Enver Hoxha,** First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania; **Haxhi Lleshi,** President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania; **Ton Duc Thang,** President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; **Le Duan,** General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam; **Fidel Castro Ruz,** First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba; **Kaysone Phomvihane,** General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and Prime Minister of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; **Habib Bourguiba,** President of the Republic of Tunisia; **Yassir Arafat,** Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization and Commander-in-Chief of the Palestine Revolutionary Armed Forces; **Dawda Kairaba Jawara,** President of the Republic of Gambia; **Gnassingbe Eyadema,** Chairman-Founder of the Togolese People's Rally and President of the Republic of Togo; **France Albert Rene,** President of the Republic of Seychelles; **F.W.K. Akuffo,** Head of State and Chairman of the Supreme Military Council of the Republic of Ghana; **Urho Kekkonen,** President of the Republic of Finland; **Josip Broz Tito,** President of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia and President of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; **Souphanouvong,** President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; **Ziaur Rahman,** President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; **Hafez Al Assad,** President of the Syrian Arab Republic; **Elias Sarkis,** President of the Republic of Lebanon; **Spyros Kyprianou,** President of the Republic of Cyprus; **Mathieu Kerekou,** Chairman of the Central Committee of the [illegible] of the People's Revolution of Benin, President, Head of State and Head of the Military Revolutionary Government of the People's Republic of Benin; **Ahmed Sekou Toure,** President of the Guinean Revolutionary People's Republic; **Siaka Probyn Stevens,** President of the Republic of Sierra Leone; **Daniel T. Aran Mol,** President of the Republic of Kenya; **Samora Moises Machel,** Chairman of the Liberation Front of Mozambique and President of the People's Republic of Mozambique; **Olav the Fifth,** King of Norway; and **Rudolf Kirchschlaeger,** President of the Republic of Austria.

Rodong Sinmun Calls Vietnamese Invasion of Cambodia Threat to Independence, Socialism, Peace

PYONGYANG, Jan. 12 (KCNA)—An editorial article of Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the Workers' Party of Korea) titled "Challenge to National Independence, Socialism and Peace" reads in full:

A grave situation shocking the world is taking place in Democratic Kampuchea in the last few days.

According to reports, huge armed forces invading from outside have brought under their control almost the whole territory of Kampuchea including the capital city of Phnom Penh.

The world people who love justice and peace cannot repress their surprise at this and are following future developments with a deep concern.

'People's Uprising' Incredible

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam claims that the present situation has been created by an "armed uprising" of the "National United Front for the National Salvation of Kampuchea."

But the world's broad public would not believe in this claim nor can believe in it.

As for the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, it is a revolutionary gain won by the Kampuchean people through a five-year long bloody national salvation struggle against the U.S. imperialists and their stooges under the leadership of the Kampuchean Communist Party and an independent lawful government established at the general will of the Kampuchean people.

Democratic Kampuchea is a sovereign and independent state recognized by Southeast Asian countries including Vietnam and a great many countries of the world and a full-fledged member of the non-aligned movement.

Therefore, the world people is unwilling to believe the word "people's uprising" itself, which is claimed to have occurred against the young lawful revolutionary regime which was born with the undisputed support of the people.

Even according to the announcement of the Vietnamese side, the "National United Front for the National Salvation of Kampuchea" was formed about a month ago. How can it mobilize in such a short period vast quantities of military equipment including so many planes, tanks and artillery pieces and regular armed forces of more than 10 divisions? This surpasses the imagination of the ordinary people.

The whole world knows that serious differences and open armed conflicts occurred between Vietnam and Democratic Kampuchea since early last year over the boundary problem.

It is not without reason that the world public views the present armed control of Democratic Kampuchea as one by a massive military action of the Vietnamese side.

We feel a painful wrench at such state of things that occurred between fraternal countries building socialism.

Use of Force Intolerable

The socialist countries, proceeding from the nature of the social system which liquidated all sorts of exploitation and oppression, resolutely oppose the violation of the independence of other countries or domination and control of others.

The socialist countries are class brothers and revolutionary comrades-in-arms who establish mutual relations on the principles of complete equality, independence, mutual respect, non-interference in others' internal affairs and comradely cooperation and advance shoulder to shoulder toward the victory of the cause of socialism and communism.

There may be differences among the fraternal parties and fraternal countries.

This, however, must not be solved by a coercive method with the mobilization of armed forces, but must be solved through negotiations under all circumstances.

It is intolerable to resort to an open armed action against a legitimate revolutionary power and overthrow it, under whatever pretext it may be committed.

But Vietnam calls the revolutionary power of Kampuchea and its leaders a "clique" and launched an open armed intervention to overthrow the revolutionary power of Kampuchea for the mere reason that it does not agree with their policy and style of work.

It is entirely an internal affair of Kampuchea what policy the Kampuchean party and government pursue.

The revolutionary power of Kampuchea is the precious gain of the revolution won by the Kampuchean people through their protracted arduous liberation struggle. It is not only the banner of freedom and independence for the Kampuchean people but a common gain of the world working class.

The Kampuchean people have struggled to consolidate the revolutionary power over the past 3 years and a half.

It is a perfidy to the cause of socialism to dictate and trample it underfoot.

If one interferes in the internal affairs of other country and mobilizes even armed forces to overthrow the gain of the revolution itself because the policy of a fraternal party, fraternal country is not to his liking, what will become of the future of the common cause of socialism?

When the foreign imperialist forces of aggression interfered in the internal affairs of Vietnam and committed an armed invasion, didn't the Vietnamese people rise in a resolute struggle against it?

But today, not long after she won the country's reunification and independence, Vietnam started dominationist action against her fraternal neighbour as if she were oblivious of her yesterday's position. This is outrageous.

The Vietnamese control of Kampuchea by crossing the border through a massive military action is an outright infringement upon the national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kampuchea and a crude violation of the publicly recognized international law.

This is an open challenge discrediting socialism and endangering peace.

Ungrateful, Disillusioning Act

In particular, the Kampuchean people offered the area of parrot beak and many other areas of Kampuchea as the operational and supply bases and actively supported and cooperated with the Vietnamese people materially and morally at the difficult time of the Vietnamese people's war of resistance against U.S. aggression and for national salvation in defiance of the wanton pressure and armed intervention by the imperialists and the reactionaries at home.

It must be said that the act of Vietnam is an ungrateful act discarding the revolutionary sense of duty.

Kampuchea and Vietnam are both members of the non-aligned movement.

The non-aligned movement takes it as its lofty idea to oppose all brands of domination and subjugation and defend independence. This movement takes as the basic principle of its activities respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other country, non-interference in other's internal affairs and nonuse of force.

If it is faithful to the idea and principle of the non-aligned movement, Vietnam would never have committed such act.

Such act of Vietnam disillusions the world peace-loving people and us who have supported and encouraged the anti-U.S., national-salvation struggle of the Vietnamese people with all sincerity in the past.

From the first days of the dispute between Democratic Kampuchea and Vietnam we have advised that it should be solved in a peaceful way through negotiations between the two fraternal countries.

Today the Asian people and world people sincerely hope for the relaxation of international tension and maintenance and consolidation of peace.

No More Dominationist Precedent

The present developments in Kampuchea give a serious lesson to the world people.

We witness clearly here once again that the ambition for dominating and controlling other countries can be seen in a comparably small country, too.

It is clear that if a precedent of one country dominating and controlling another country with strength is overlooked today, some other country will conquer and subjugate another country tomorrow.

If the jungle law prevalent in the last period is permitted now, the revolutionary cause of the people for building an independent and prosperous world will suffer a serious setback.

Therefore, the world people should heighten vigilance against all sorts of dominationist aggressive manoeuvres and unite strength in opposing them.

Only by waging a vigorous struggle against imperialism and dominationism, can the people consolidate national independence, achieve the independent development of the country and build a free and peaceful, new world free from all manner of domination and subjugation.

The world people should not allow any forms of aggression and intervention no matter by anyone but take more positive steps lest such act should repeat in the future.

Ours is an era of independence. No one in the world will tolerate an infringement upon his sovereignty and an insult to his dignity.

As historical experience shows, the action of dominating and ruling others would bring nothing good.

Prompt Withdrawal From Cambodia Advised

We advise Vietnam to ponder over the matter and immediately withdraw its armed forces from the Kampuchean territory and solve the dispute between Vietnam and Kampuchea in a peaceful way by means of negotiation based on the norms of mutual relations between the socialist countries and the principle of the non-aligned movement.

We hope that the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Kampuchea will be guaranteed, the Kampuchean people be left to shape their destiny by themselves and an era of genuine peace come to Southeast Asia at an early date.

(Subtitles are ours....Ed.)

DPRK Envoy in Peking Meets Sihanouk

Chon Myong Su, ambassador of the DPRK to China, on January 8 called on Samdech Norodom Sihanouk on a visit to Peking, KCNA reported from Peking.

The ambassador courteously conveyed warm friendly greetings of President Kim Il Sung to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

Expressing deep thanks for the warm friendly greetings of the President, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk asked the ambassador to convey highest regards and wholehearted greetings to him.

The conversation proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Eastern India Regional Seminar On Juche Idea Held

An eastern India regional seminar on the Juche idea was held with a large attendance in Patna, Bihar State, India, on Dec. 9 and 10, 1978, according to a KCNA report.

It was attended by the Governor of the Bihar State, India, the Minister of Higher Education of the State Government, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the State Legislative Assembly, 20 odd members of the Parliament, the President of the State Supreme Court, 25 lawyers, the vice-chancellor of Patna University, the president of Bihar National College, 64 doctors and professors, leading personages of political parties in the state, editors-in-chief of newspapers in Bihar and West Bengal states, members of the "National Juche Idea Study Society of India," members of the friendship association, and political and public figures in the state, writers, journalists, representatives from 12 states of India and a large number of people of various strata in Bihar State.

The DPRK ambassador to India was invited on the occasion.

Mr. Vishwanath, Secretary-General of the "National Juche Idea Study Society of India," made a report at the seminar.

He said: The current seminar offers us a good opportunity to further deepen the understanding of and study on the Juche idea and exchange the achievements and experiences gained in studying the Juche idea.

The Juche idea now under our discussion is the idea created by His Excellency respected President Kim Il Sung and the great idea developed and enriched in the practical struggle for the revolution and construction.

Touching on the background of an age against which the Juche idea has emerged and some important aspects forming main contents of the Juche idea, the speaker went on: The revolutionary doctrine of His Excellency President Kim Il Sung is, indeed, the encyclopedical series of revolution giving perfect answers to all questions of the revolution and construction of our times and constitutes a beacon illumining the road for the world people to follow, a never-drying-up life-giving water and the invincible militant banner for the victory of revolution.

The correctness and indestructible vitality of the Juche idea founded by His Excellency President Kim Il Sung have been fully substantiated in the practical struggle, he said.

Concluding his speech, he remarked: Today the immortal Juche idea arouses ever-increasing sympathy of the world people for its greatness and correctness and powerfully inspires people to the fruitful struggle for an independent and creative life.

Indeed, the Juche idea fathered by President Kim Il Sung is the great idea occupying the most prominent and splendid place in the ideological history of mankind and the bright beacon illuminating the future road of contemporary world people.

At the seminar a letter to President Kim Il Sung was unanimously adopted amid thunderous applause of the attendants.

Follow the newly founded study groups of the Juche idea and Kimilsungism:

The "Chad Group for the Study of the Juche Idea" (this year)

The "Group for the Study of Kimilsungism" of students in Karachi, Pakistan (Dec. 13, 1978)

The "Lebanese Committee for the Study of the Juche Idea of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung" (Dec. 16, 1978)

Tass on Washington's Reconsideration Of GI Pullout

Soviet news agency "Tass" Jan. 5 carried a commentary exposing the U.S. farce of its "troop withdrawal" from south Korea.

It said:

A U.S. State Department spokesman announced that the United States intends to reconsider its decision on gradual withdrawal of American land forces from south Korea. It follows from this statement that the much-advertised "troop withdrawal" by the U.S.A. has proved to be nothing more than a propaganda step. As is known, the present administration promised to pull out American troops from south Korea in the course of five years beginning with 1978, and to leave there only air force and naval contingents. But shortly after these promises were made it became clear that Washington had no intention of cutting its military potential in south Korea. On the contrary, as a "compensation" for future withdrawal of American land forces, the United States began increasing its air force and naval strength in the Korean Peninsula and prepared a plan for complete modernization and re-equipment of all armed forces of the Pak Jung Hi dictatorial regime, a plan worth almost 2 billion dollars.

The U.S.A. allocated 275 million-dollar credits for the Seoul "regime" as part of foreign military aid appropriations for the 1979 fiscal year. Moreover, the Congress approved the U.S. government's proposal for turning over to south Korea military equipment and supplies worth 800 million dollars. Up-to-date models of American tanks, helicopters, artillery guns and other arms began to be adopted for service in the Seoul army.

The first contingent of American land forces—about 6,000—were to leave south Korea last year. But the White House put off the first stage of troop withdrawal till 1979. Now, to judge by the State Department statement, the White House intends to withdraw this promise.

Attendants of the eastern India regional seminar on the Juche idea held in Patna, Bihar State, on Dec. 9 and 10 last year.

KOREA FOCUS

DPRK's Independent Stand On Cambodian Situation

The conquest of Cambodia by Vietnam through large-scale military operations has generated shock wave throughout the world. Both Cambodia and Vietnam are socialist countries and members of the non-alignment movement. They once fought shoulder to shoulder against the American aggression and won their respective complete independence. Vietnam gave recognition to Cambodia. Democratic Cambodia, immediately after its birth, devoted all its energies to building its own socialism. Cambodia became a food-surplus country and achieved striking successes in other fields. This peaceful country became a target of military conquest by one of its fraternal countries, Vietnam.

It is only too natural that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a socialist country and a member of the non-alignment movement, should have denounced the unwarranted invasion of Cambodia. *Rodong Sinmun*, organ of the Workers' Party of Korea, gave the lie to Vietnam's allegation about "a people's uprising by the Cambodian people", when the paper stated: "Even according to the announcement of the Vietnamese side, the 'National United Front for the National Salvation of Kampuchea' was formed about a month ago. How can it mobilize in such a short period vast quantities of military equipment including so many planes, tanks and artillery pieces and regular armed forces of more than 10 divisions? This surpasses the imagination of the ordinary people."

The stand expressed in *Rodong Sinmun* is a completely independent stand based on the independent foreign policy of the DPRK. However, the Western mass media described the DPRK as "pro-Peking." They also report that the DPRK allows the Soviet navy to use Rajin Port in its northern area. Such reporting is totally groundless, irresponsible and shows their utter lack of knowledge. Their labelling of the DPRK as "pro-Peking" or "pro-Moscow" makes no sense at all.

As well known, the DPRK is led by Juche values as the first country to advocate in a systematic way independence in state activities. Upholding independence means trying to find solutions to all the questions of one's own country by using one's own head, with one's own responsibility and on one's own efforts in accordance with the specific conditions of one's own country and in the interests of its people.

This is the principled position of the DPRK in its foreign policy conduct. The DPRK never dances to the tune of others. Nor does it curry favor with others or swallow their experience whole.

The DPRK understands and endorses the Sino-Japanese Friendship and Amity Treaty and the Sino-American normalization as normal to state-to-state relations in the international community. It does not follow, however, that the DPRK will follow suit in relations with Japan and the U.S. The question depends on whether or not those countries take stand benefiting the Korean people. This principle applies to the relations of the DPRK with socialist countries. In 1960's, a major ordeal confronted the socialist countries. The DPRK was subjected to reckless military provocations by the U.S. as the "Pueblo" incident showed. The DPRK determinedly rejected any attempt at interventionist acts by foreign countries. With regard to Inter-socialist state relations, the DPRK sticks to the principled stand of Marxism-Leninism and called for unity among socialist states, criticizing both rightist revisionism and ultra-leftist dogmatism.

The outstanding issues between Cambodia and Vietnam should be brought to a negotiated settlement, since the two are socialist countries sharing the same political and ideological thoughts. The use or threat of force should be avoided under any circumstances. The military conquest of Cambodia by Vietnam is a far cry from a case where a fraternal country has dispatched its troops to aid any given new-born socialist state at the latter's request as the latter is faced with an imperialist power's scheming to topple its government. The Vietnamese invasion is a total infringement on Cambodia's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. Therefore, for the settlement of the situation, it is essential for Vietnam to withdraw its armed forces from Cambodia.

What marks the contemporary international political situation is a conflict between the independent forces and the dominationist forces. A factor in complicating the international situation is the composition of the dominationist forces: not only the imperialist powers but also un-imperialist countries, big and small.

Dominationism assumes various overt and covert forms: compelling others to accept one's demands and pressuring them or interfering in their domestic affairs when they fail to, oppressing and controlling other peoples.

Racially and culturally, Cambodia is different from Vietnam. The term "Indochina" is a legacy of the past French government-general rule over Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos as one region. As part of such French colonial legacy, the borders of Cabmdoia and Vietnam were left not clearly demarcated. In addition, Vietnam used part of Cambodian territory during its protracted anti-U.S. national salvation struggle. These historical facts should be discarded.

The socialist countries and non-aligned countries both aspire for independence and oppose domination and subjugation; they must unite on the basis of their common commitment to independence. The definition of dominationism and the opposition to it is an independently-worked-out stand of the DPRK. It does not imply tilting to any given country. The DPRK will continue to abide by its independent stand in international relations.

1978: Breakthrough for 7-Yr. Plan

Gross Industrial Output Value Increased 17%

Last year, the DPRK's industry grew at an amazing rate of 17 per cent, far higher than the 12.1 per cent rate envisaged for the 2nd 7-Year Plan, President Kim Il Sung revealed in his New Year address to the nation.

The industrial performance of the DPRK is in striking contrast with the chronic stagflation currently gripping other countries. South Korea's foreign trade reportedly recorded a deficit of more than two billion dollars last year. The near-default south Korean economy is being kept above water only by the continuing borrowing from abroad.

The DPRK managed to perform the first-year assignments of the plan with its own financing.

The President said in his speech at a national meeting of financial and bank workers held from Dec. 20 to 23 last year:

"Over the last ten years, the state budgetary revenue showed a high-rate growth of 13 per cent on an annual average to augment the scale of the state budget 3.4 times.

"We cover the huge outlay for this with our own earnings. We never collect a tax from the people to meet the financial need."

A view of the Kimchaek Iron and Steel Works

The annual plan was fulfilled ahead of schedule through a vigorously fought 100-day battle prior to the 30th birthday of the DPRK.

An innovation was brought about in the production of coal and ores by rebuilding and expanding the coal and ore mines and modernizing the mining equipment. As a result, the thermal power stations have come to operate to full capacity to satisfy the ever-growing demand for electricity, and normalize production in all processing industries. The reconstruction and expansion projects briskly went on at existing coal mines including the Anju District Coal Complex with rich deposits and large-scale ore mines including the Komdok and Unryul mines.

The material and technical foundations of coal and ore mines have been remarkably consolidated.

In the branch of transport a "200-day fight for a revolution in transport" which eased the strain on transport was waged. Then, the railways between Kilju and Hyesan and between Taedonggang and Sinsongchon were completely switched over to electric traction; and the expansion projects of the Nampo and Haeju ports made a successful progress to markedly increase the transport capacities.

In the fields of the power, metal, chemical and building materials industries, the output of electric power increased by 10 per cent, steel 27 per cent, chemical fertilizers 23 per cent and cement 32 per cent up on 1977.

At the Kimchaek Iron and Steel Works, one of the nation's metallurgical giants, the ouput of pig iron was lifted to 40 per cent, steel 62 per cent and rolled steel 125 per cent last year as against the results in 1977 while pushing ahead with difficult projects for completing the after-processing of the hot rolling branch shop and building a new raw-material processing line.

In agriculture, good crops were raised and grain production was radically boosted in North and South Hamgyong provinces.

Capital construction of huge scales has successfully carried out. The investment in productive construction was increased by 20 per cent. Many great monumental edifices were built. They included: the International Friendship Museum, the first-stage project of the Ponghwa Chemical Plant, the construction of the Pyongyang-Wonsan Express Highway, the third-stage project of the Pyongyang Metro, the "Chongchon Bridge" longest in Korea.

Productive construction has been energetically accelerated in the fields of heavy industry, including the Taean Heavy Machine Plant and the Taedonggang Hydro-Power Station.

In light industry, a modern spinning mill with 50,000 spindles was built in Kanggye and the Pyongyang Wheat Flour Processing Combine with a production capacity of 100,000 tons was commissioned.

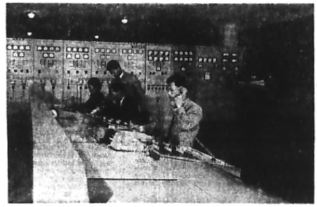
Thus, a big breakthrough was made for the successful fulfilment of the new long-term plan. In this course, the Juche-orientation, modernization and scientification of the national economy were more energetically accelerated and the economic power grew still further.

At the 17th Plenary Meeting of the Fifth Central Committee of the WPK held on Nov. 27 and 28 last year, the 1979 plan for development of the national economy was already discussed and fighting tasks to bring in conformity with the demand of the developing realities.

This year the DPRK will make an effective use of the existing economic foundations to increase production to the maximum and improve the people's livelihood remarkably, while vigorously propelling the Juche-orientation, modernization and scientification of the national economy.

The 2nd 7-Year Plan was set forth at the 1st Session of the 6th Supreme People's Assembly held in December 1977.

During this long-term plan period, industrial production will increase at an annual average rate of 12.1 per cent, with its gross output value rising 2.2 times.



The control room of the Pyongyang Thermal Power Plant

Expansion of Foreign Trade Expected

In his New Year address, President Kim Il Sung attached great importance to developing foreign trade. In this connection, he also mentioned the need to strictly observe the principle of giving priority to credit. Precedence must be given to the production of export goods, the appointed time of their delivery kept punctually, he said.

Developing foreign trade is the demand of the present situation of the country, now that its foreign relations have been expanded considerably and its economy has become larger in scale.

In other words, developing foreign trade will contribute toward boosting production through an effective utilization of the existing production capacities, consolidating the independent national economy and promoting its friendly and cooperative relations with many countries of the world.

Last year the country met the 30th anniversary of its founding. One hundred and 10 delegates from 90 countries—31 from Asia, 41 from Africa, 6 from Latin America, and 32 from Europe—participated in the central celebration. The number of countries which recognize the DPRK now stands at 97. More and more countries are trying to strengthen friendship with the DPRK known for maintaining the line of political independence, economic self-support and self-defense.

In a bid to firmly build up its independent national economy, the country has made great efforts to establish raw material bases in the country, relying on domestic resources.

The country's self-sufficiency rate in raw materials and fuel is more than 70 per cent, while it produces 98 per cent of the machinery which is needed for domestic use.

Establishing its own bases of raw materials and fuel does not mean that the country must produce all the raw materials and fuel needed for the development of the national economy.

A country has to meet the demand for raw materials and fuel, which it does not produce or feels short of, through foreign trade with other countries by way of meeting each other's needs on the principle of equality and mutual benefit.

In order to conduct foreign trade in a brisk way, stress has been laid on ship-building industry—on the building of large cargo ships of the 20,000-, 50,000- and 100,000-dwt classes.

Major shipyards are located in Chongjin (N. Hamgyong Prov.) Sinpo (S. Hamgyong Prov.), Wonsan (Kangwon Prov.), Kim Chaek (N. Hamgyong Prov.), Nampo (S. Pyongan Prov.) and Sinuiju(N. Pyongan Prov.).

The Chongjin Shipyard, a large ship-building base in the northern area of the eastern coast of the country launched the "Munsusan," the 14,000-dwt cargo ship "Tumangang" and 20,000-dwt ships equipped with automated and remote-controlled navigational devices and loading and unloading mechanisms.

During the last Six-Year Plan (1971-1976), the shipyard built many 14,000-dwt freighters, such as "Wangjaesan" and "Osandok".

During the Second Seven-Year Plan (1978-1984) it will build many 14,000-dwt freighters serially. At the end of the new long-term plan 50,000-dwt and 100,000-dwt freighters will be built there.

The Nampo Shipyard on the west coast of the country launched the 20,000-dwt cargo ship "Yongpunho" last year.

Nampo situated at the estuary of the River Taedon-gang on the west coast is the gateway to Pyongyang.

Nampo Port has been constructed as a modern trading port, which accomodates large foreign merchant ships.

Haeju situated in the central part of the western coastal area of the country has turned into a beautiful port city of culture.

Haeju is the capital of South Hwanghae Province and faces vast expanses of the West Sea. The country plans to make Haeju a clean international city.

Chongjin Port on the east coast of the country greatly contributes to the development of the nation's foreign trade.

The wharfs of the port which consists of east and west ports are arranged in good order with cranes of various types, large warehouses and storage yards.

Big and small ships from many countries enter and leave the port in an endless stream today.

In order to smoothly conduct export, transport must be developed.

The policy of applying three transport methods—centralized transport, combined communication, and container transport—should be thoroughly utilized.

One thousand and 6 hundred kilometre long sections of railway lines will be electrified in the country during the period of the Second Seven-Year Plan.

Last year, the first year of the Second Seven-Year Plan, the Kilju-Hyesan section covering 140 kilometres, and the Taedonggang-Sinsonchon section were electrified.

At present the proportion of haulage by electric locomotives has reached 66 per cent in the total railway freightage. It will rise to 87 per cent by the end of the new long-term plan.

The Pyongyang-Wonsan Express Highway was opened to traffic (Sep. 2 last year). This links the east and the west of the country.

A view of Chongjin Port

News in Brief

Dec. 17

• Kim Yu Sun, head of the sports teams of the DPRK staying in Thailand to participate in the 8th Asian Games paid a visit to Kriangsak Chamanand, Prime Minister of Thailand, on his 61st birthday.

Dec. 19

• The Central People's Committee of the DPRK issued decrees appointing Ryu Ho Jun as DPRK Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Pak Gye Yol as DPRK Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and Pak Min Sop as DPRK Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

• A public health delegation of the People's Republic of China headed by Chiang Yi-chen, Minister of Public Health, arrived in Pyongyang by train.

Dec. 21

• The 1978-1979 plan for cooperation in public health services and medical sciences between the Public Health Ministries of the DPRK and the Romanian Socialist Republic was signed in Pyongyang.

Dec. 22

• Pak Hyon Bo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the DPRK to Bulgaria, paid a courtesy call on Stanko Todorov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Bulgarian People's Republic.

Noting that the main obstacle to Korean reunification is the U.S. occupation of south Korea, the Chairman said that the United States must quit south Korea.

Dec. 23

• A protocol on the mutual delivery of commodities for 1979 between the governments of the DPRK and the People's Republic of China was signed in Peking.

Dec. 23

• Cho Myong Hwang, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the DPRK to the Democratic Republic of the Sudan, presented his credentials to Gaafar Mohammed Nimeri, President of the host country. (KCNA)

Songs to 35th World T.T. Championships Composed

"Friendship Pyongyang T.T. Championships" and "Pyongyang, a Beautiful City," songs to the 35th World Table Tennis Championships, have been composed, according to a KCNA report.

The song "Friendship Pyongyang T.T. Championships" written by well-known poet and composer vividly depicts the hopeful life and sentiments of the table-tennis players coming to the championships in a light melody.

Follows the works of the song:

1.We've come with soaring hopes
and vigor,

Crossing the oceans and mountains
from all continents.
(refrain)
Pyongyang, Pyongyang, the international title.
Pyongyang, Pyongyang, friendly
championships series.

2.We are youth, with ardor keen
and elated,
Let's play fair for the world title,
proudly, splendidly.
(refrain)

3.March in line, march forward,
you altogether.
Sing in chorus, hand in hand, friendship everlasting.
(refrain)

The song "Pyongyang, a Beautiful City" is a waltz tune rich in lyricism and soft in melody.

Now gramophone records of these songs are being made, which will soon be sent to foreign countries.

Ryanggang Province

Ryanggang Province has the highest and widest plateaus and the most jagged mountain ranges in the DPRK.

Mt. Paekdu-san towers imposingly at the northern tip of the province.

This mountain with the height of 2,750 meters is the highest and biggest in Korea. On its top is Lake Chonji, the biggest natural lake in the DPRK.

The Amnok-gang River, the longest river in the DPRK, flows along the southwestern side of the mountain, while the Tuman-gang River runs on the northeastern side. These two rivers form the northern border of the DPRK.

In 1930's the then General Kim Il Sung set up guerrilla bases, in the wide areas around Mt. Paekdusan, and organized and guided the arduous revolutionary struggle; there he led the national liberation movement of the Korean people centering around the anti-Japanese armed struggle which ended successfully with national liberation.

There is limped and blue Lake Samjiyon in a thick forest on the southeastern side of Mt. Paekdu-san. Fine modern facilities for the vacationing working people are found around the picturesque lake.

A scene of rafting

The province is the biggest timber-producer as 97 per cent of its areas are mountains.

The province accounts for about a half of logs and one-third of lumber produced in Korea.

Paekdu forest railway lines link major timber-producing areas. Prominent are the Yupyong, Yonam, Rimyongsu, Taepyong and other lumber stations.

Modern machinery and equipment are used in all the processes of log production.

Thus produced timbers are rafted down the Amnok-gang and Tuman-gang rivers for transportation. Modern timber processing factories are to be found in Hyesan, Paekam, Pochon and other places.

Every lumberjacks' settlement has schools, a hospital, shops and a cinema house and cosy modern dwellings.

Mining is also a major industry of the province.

The province has textile, paper-making, foodstuffs, daily necessities and other local industries utilizing its rich raw materials. Each county in the province has many local industry factories including foodstuffs and daily necessities factories.

Agriculture of highland Ryanggang Province was formerly non-existent.

State Combined Farm No. 5 which is located at the northern tip of the province is known for its highly industrialized farming.

The farm has already achieved comprehensive mechanization and has many tractors, lorries, sowing machines and harvesters and even planes are used to spray agricultural chemicals.

Fields have been remade into big standardized ones which produce good crops of wheat and potato every year. The farm produces a great abundance of vegetables and fruits and carries on stock breeding in a big way.

The farm's grain output increased 7 times that in the post-war days and meat 15 times and the farmers' average incomes 10 times.

It has a modern starch factory, a meat processing factory, a clothing factory and a food processing factory for the agricultural working people.

In Ryanggang Province, great changes have taken place also in the fields of education, public health and people's life.

There is Popyong, a town with a ferry on the Amnok-gang River, in Huchang County.

The biggest and magnificent building in Popyong is the Kim Song Ju Students and Children's Palace, a centre for the extracurricular education of the students there. There was no primary school at Popyong before liberation, but now it has a fine senior middle school.

In the province, there are 5 colleges with modern facilities and hundreds of schools of all levels.

Schools stand everywhere people live, even in villages hidden deep among mountains, and all the children receive universal 11-year compulsory free education.

There is a school for 11 children in a remote mountain village called Sangsudong-gol and a train is running for a small number of school children in Ryonha-ri in Huchang County.

Every county in Ryanggang Province has an average of over 30 medical service establishments including the county people's hospital and the working people live long in good health, enjoying free medical treatment.

There is the modern Kim Hyong Jik People's Hospital which frees the population in Popyong from worries about treatment.

Long ago electricity found its way into every village and every house and radio service introduced. And now people live a cultured life, seeing television.

Buses are running to villages over the mountains and water service is rendered to every house.

Untold Story on Korean Culture (5)

Origin of Japanese Porcelain "Mishimamono"

The following is a story about how Japan plundered Korea's cultural relics.

Explanations about a celadon porcelain exhibited in the National Museum in Tokyo were made in the previous article in this series. However, the question is the following part.

"...Although excellent cinnabar porcelains and porcelains patterned with gold were made in the latter part of Koryo, because of frequent wars, pottery-making techniques deteriorated and inlaid porcelains became inferior in quality and came to be called *Mishimamono*."

It was the Imjin Fatherland Liberation War—invasion of Korea by Japan, which started in 1592, and not "frequent wars" that made Koryo porcelains deteriorate in quality.

Japanese soldiers killed innocent Koreans, salted their noses and sent them to Japan.

On top of this, Japanese soldiers under feudal lords looted Korean objects of art they could lay hands on and took skilled potters to Japan.

Why were the Japanese set on looting art objects.

This is partly because the art of tea ceremony attached great importance to the quest of *wabi* (taste for the simple and quiet) and *sabi* (elegant simplicity) was popular then.

However, the main reason was to grant rewards to soldiers in recognition of their services in the war.

In order to conquer the whole country, Toyotomi Hideyoshi made promises to give fiefs to his warlords. But there was a limit to the territory which he could promise to his generals.

He gave swords and objects of art to many warlords instead of fiefs.

This is why objects of art were needed in great quantities.

As such precious objects didn't exist in large numbers, Hideyoshi paid attention to Korean objects of art.

As a result of their looting, Korean pottery became inferior in quality and Korean porcelains came to be called *Mishimamono* in Japan.

In the Meiji era, Japan became the colonial ruler of Korea and plundered large quantites of treasures and classical objects of art by digging tumuluses.

There is a school of art in Japan which seeks beauty in imbalance, while a beauty of perfection is sought in Korean pottery. Some people say this is due to the artistic sense of the Japanese who like *wabi* and *sabi*.

We Koreans do not think so. Japanese soldiers looted even defective and discarded porcelains, which were respected as ideals of beauty by the above-said school of art. Even *yogantangji* (urine pots) were placed as decorations at *tokonoma* or alcoves in Japan.

Wirepullers behind S. Korea-Japan Scandals

Grumman Case

Four Japanese government officials named by an ex-executive of Grumman International are those who have dirty connections with the south Korean puppet regime.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, probing illegal payments by Grumman International, a major aircraft maker of the U.S. published on Jan. 4 a report, which said in the part relating to the sale of E-2Cs to Japan: Grumman changed its agent in Japan in 1969 at the suggestion of a "Japanese high-ranking government official".

Following this publication, Thomas Cheatham, a former executive of Grumman International, disclosed on Jan. 8 that he had met with four Japanese politicians including former Prime Minister Kishi Nobusuke, in connection with the sale of Grumman's E-2C early warning planes to Japan's Defense Agency.

The three other politicians Cheatham said he had met with are former Prime Minister Fukuda, former director general of Japan Defence Agency Matsuno Raizo, and Nakasone Yasuhiro, who has also served as defence agency director.

Cheatham did not disclose what he had discussed with the four politicians he named. But it is believed that they suggested that Grumman Corp. change its sales agent from Sumitomo Corp. to Nissho-Iwai Co., both major trading firms in Japan.

The Grumman report to the SEC said it was "possible" that "American consultant" Harry F. Kern might have paid part of his commissions to one or more Japanese government officials.

Cheatham also said that though he did not know if Grumman's money had directly been channelled into Japanese government officials, it was possible that Nissho-Iwai Co. contributed money to them.

Then what kind of people are Kishi, Fukuda, Nakasone, and Matsuno and what kind of firm is Nissho-Iwai Co.?

Their names are often mentioned in connection with south Korea-Japan scandals. In this issue The People's Korea spotlights Kishi's and Nissho-Iwai's relations with the past south Korea-Japan scandals.

In Japan it was in connection with the Lockheed scandal that dirty connections between south Korea and Japan were brought to light.

South Korean-Japanese dirty connections have continued with the successive puppet regimes in south Korea since the Syngman Rhee regime. Relations between Japan and south Korea were extremely strengthened especially after the Pak Jung Hi "regime" appeared in south Korea.

Kishi Nobusuke is one of the major Japanese politicians who have deep connections with the Pak junta. He is chief of the Japanese side of the "Japan-south Korea cooperative committee" which was established in 1969 in Tokyo with a view to "promoting on a private level friendship and exchange" between the two countries.

Kishi has an old friend named Yatsugi Kazuo with whom he has been in intimate relations since pre-war years. Yatsugi is said to be a man who has been influential in the political and financial circles of Japan since pre-war years, and has had contacts with the successive Japanese prime ministers.

Laver Scandal

The laver scandal was part of the south Korea-Japan dirty connections.

In the period immediately preceding the conclusion in 1965 of the "ROK"-Japan treaty", a sheet of laver which cost 0.4 to one yen in south Korea could be imported by scores of Japanese companies which were given import quotas. Some Japanese Dietmen received fat kickbacks from the deals.

Kishi and former south Korean "prime minister" Kim Jong Pil were in close contacts with each other in those days.

Seoul Subway Case

The Seoul subway scandal is one of the scandals in which Kishi's name also appears.

The construction of the Seoul subway started in June, 1971 and four Japanese trading firms jointly won a bidding for coaches in March, 1973.

As for the construction of the Seoul subway, Marubeni Corp. had been consulting with the Pak junta since the planning stage and the company had already picked the maker to manufacture the coaches to be used for the subway. This notwithstanding, the four trading companies jointly won a bid, with Mitsubishi Corporation as the main firm.

At that time Mitsubishi tried to have contacts with Li Hu Rak who had become south Korean ambassador to Japan. Kishi is said to have acted as the intermediary between Mitsubishi Corporation and Li Hu Rak.

Other trading firms counterattacked and after all a joint tender was submitted at the bidding. The controvertial Nissho-Iwai was one of the four trading firms.

Kishi Nobusuke visited south Korea to attend the general meeting of the "south Korea-Japan cooperative committee" in Sep. 1973. He was said to have discussed how the Kim Dae Jung kidnapping case was to be coped with.

"Continental Shelf Treaty"

The "south Korea-Japan continental shelf treaty" is going to become effective in the near future.

The "treaty" itself has a number of problems. Here we should examine why the continental shelf affair was taken up as a profitable deal by both Japanese and south Korean politicians in view of the fact that Kishi played a big role.

The "south Korea-Japan continental shelf treaty" originated in an "ECAFE" (the Economic Commission for Asia and Far East) report that the south sea of Korea had large oil deposits next in scale to those in the Persian Gulf.

In January, 1970, the Pak Jung Hi junta framed the "law for the development of off-shore mineral ores" and declared jurisdiction over an area of 300,000 square kilometers in the continental shelf in the south sea in May of the same year, and divided this area into seven lots and sold them as concessions to U.S. oil monopolies.

The Japanese ruling circles demanded their territorial right over the seventh lot. In December, 1970, Japan formed the "marine development committee". An ""ROK"-Japan joint conference for undersea resources development" held a meeting on January 20, 1971, in Tokyo. Kishi and Yatsugi Kazuo attended the meeting.

Yatsugi Kazuo conferred with Pak Jung Hi on the joint development of the continental shelf, and concluded a secret agreement, when he took part in a meeting of the ""RCK"-Japan regular ministerial conference" in September, 1972 reached a "government-level agreement" on "the joint development of the continental shelf."

A Japanese commentator had this to say about Kishi's unusually active manoeuvres for the ""ROK"-Japan joint continental shelf development": "I cannot read stories on the Japan-'ROK' continental shelf treaty without reading the name of Kishi Nobusuke".

Kishi has been keenly interested in the problem of oil concessions in the Korean continental shelf. He urged his close friends—Kodama Yoshio, whose name appears in the Lockheed scandal and Yatsugi Kazuo—to take an active part in promoting the conclusion of an ""ROK"-Japan joint continental shelf development treaty."

Kishi received one million dollars through Kodama and Machii Hisayuki, another friend of his, from a U.S. oil broker in exchange for his promise to consider his interests in the joint development of the Korean continental shelf.

In this way Kishi has had deep connections with the south Korean junta and Japanese trading firms including Nissho-Iwai. This is why Kishi was sent to south Korea to speak for the Japanese side when the Kim Dae Jung kidnapping case occurred 6 years ago.

Sinhan Insulator Co. Case

Here is another scandal called Sinhan Insulator Co. case in which Kishi and Nissho-Iwai are involved.

There were suspicions in 1966 that Japanese and south Korean politicians and businessmen intervened in an export deal between Nissho-Iwai and Sinhan Insulator Co.

Sinhan Insulator Co., established in 1966 with loans from Japanese companies, went bankrupt due to delays in the construction of its plant.

In June, 1966, Sinhan Insulator Co. signed a contract with Nissho-Iwai on the import of an insulator plant. Under the contract, Kawasaki Heavy Industries was to construct a high-tension insulator plant, and Asahi Insulator Co. to extend technical cooperation.

After that, the Japanese government decided to finance the export of the insulator plant with a loan from the Export-Import Bank of Japan. According to the contract, Nissho-Iwai applied in 1966 for an export license with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. After all, the MITI issued a plant export license in August, 1969, three years after the conclusion of the contract.

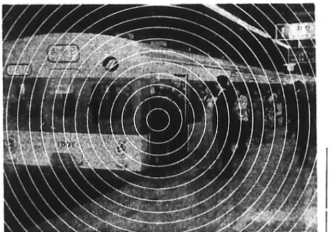
The insulator plant was shipped to south Korea shortly after the export license issued. But Sinhan Insulator Co. went bankrupt in August, 1970.

It took two and half years for the Japanese exporters to obtain the export license. There had been suspicions that the delay was deliberate.

The former deputy chief of the chemical and industrial machinery department of Nissho-Iwai had this to say: "I told President Song Yong So of Sinhan Insulator Co. that in order to get approval from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, you should use former Prime Minister Kishi. Some politicians bribed by Nissho-Iwai must have applied pressure on the MITI."

We have just seen some of dirty connections between Kishi and the south Korean puppet junta. Not only Kishi has a deep connection with the south Korean puppet regime but also many Japanese LDP Dietmen, including controvertial Fukuda and Nakasone, are allegedly deeply connected with the Seoul junta.

Kishi is allegedly involved in the Seoul subway scandal and the "south Korea-Japan continental shelf treaty.



Int'l Children's Year and Korean Children in Japan

The New Year 1979 is the International Children's Year as this year marks the 20th anniversary of the UN "Declaration on Children's Rights". Various events are to be held throughout the world to express respect for children's human rights and concern for the elevation of their well-being and for the repletion of their education. The UNICEF will function as the chief executive organ; yet concrete actions depend on each country.

In Japan, too, a similar campaign is under way.

This campaign, however, excludes 150,000 Korean children in Japan, who have their human rights trampled underfoot. Most of them are denied democratic national education by the Japanese authorities which follow hostile policy toward the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Korean children in Japan are regarded as objects of surveillance and suppression under two major evil laws—"Alien Registration Law" and "Emigration and Immigration Control Ordinance". An assimilation policy toward them has been strengthened these years in order to deprive them of their spirit as Koreans. The policy of surveillance and suppression and the policy of assimilation make the both sides of a coin, their basis being discrimination.

In the area of welfare, too, the Korean children in Japan are barred from legal benefits.

The situation is also true of the national education of Korean children in Japan. The Japanese ruling circles have consistently looked for chances to suppress them. Korean schools in Japan are not regarded as regular schools, but as miscellaneous schools like private foreign language schools.

The campaign under way in Japan on the occasion of the International Children's Year excludes 150,000 Korean children in Japan.

Analysis of Seoul's "Two-Korea" Policy (1)

Divisive Intent Unchanged

Pak Jung Hi is more frantically beating drums for "peaceful reunification" in order to mislead the world public, saying that reunification should be achieved through peaceful means under any circumstances.

In spite of his speech, he is actually bent on perpetuating the division of Korea and is dead set on preventing the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The People's Korea carries an article in four installements, exposing his sophisticated plot to perpetuate the division of Korea.

"Separate UN Membership"

The south Koreans are maneuvering to create "two Koreas" by proposing "simultaneous and separate entry of two Koreas into the UN."

Pak Jung Hi urges "simultaneous admission of two Koreas to the UN" so as to legitimate its existence, scared by the growing movement for reunification after the publication of the July 4 north-south joint statement and the loss of its internal prestige. He declared the creation of "two Koreas" to be the fundamental policy of the Seoul regime in his so-called "special statement" on June 23, 1973: "simultaneous admission of north and south Korea to the UN."

His argument is that north and south should enter separately and simultaneously the UN in order to faciliate the reunification. However, the UN is a world political organization, and if the north and the south enter the UN as "two Koreas," the existence of two states is publicly recognized.

It is too obvious that the proposed "admission of two Koreas to the UN" is aimed at making "two Koreas" recognized internationally through the UN and putting into practice a "one-nation-with-two-states" theory.

Cross Recognition

The Pak Jung Hi junta is also set on creating an "international environment" for the so-called "cross recognition" of "two Koreas," ignoring the will of the Korean people.

The much-publicized "cross recognition" is designed to create "two Koreas" by having the north and the south of Korea recognized respectively by capitalist countries including the U.S. and Japan and the socialist countries.

The first "cross recognition" bid was advanced four years ago when the north-south dialogue was stalemated due to the Seoul side's maneuvers to perpetuate the division of Korea with an intensified "anti-communist" din. At that time, the splittists were denounced by the peace-loving people for their plot to put into practice the proposal "simultaneous entry of two Koreas into the UN."

In short, Pak Jung Hi came out with a demand for "cross recognition" with the view to decieving public opinion, a demand aimed at getting the Seoul "regime" recognized as an "independent state."

Non-Aggression Pact

In his New Year press conference on January 18, 1974, Pak Jung Hi came out with a proposal for the so-called "non-aggression pact" designed for a perpetual division of Korea.

The proposed pact is described as intended to preserve peace on the Korean Peninsula and reunify Korea. As a matter of fact, it is nothing but a crafty and shameless farce intended to perpetuate the division of Korea and cover up the maneuvers to provoke a new war.

The purport of the "non-aggression pact" is that the north and the south of Korea should remain divided as two states and promise not to attack each other. In the final analysis, this is designed to legalize the partition of the country.

Special attention should be paid to the fact that the "non-aggression pact" is aimed at permanent occupation of south Korea by the U.S. troops, and not at the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from south Korea.

As is widely known to the world, the U.S. troops occupying south Korea jeopardize peace and aggravate tensions in Korea, blocking the road to the independent, peaceful reunification of Korea and creating "two Koreas."

Washington plans to give the Pak Jung Hi junta vast quantities of military equipment as "compensatory measures" for the phase-out of U.S. ground combat troops from south Korea.

Today even the defective "troop pullout plan" of the U.S. is dubious. A total sum of 800 million dollars was decided to be given south Korea under the pretext of "compensatory measures" to offset the "pullout" of the ground force.

The Carter administration schemes to strengthen the "U.S.-Japan-south Korea tripartite military alliance," use Japan as a launching base, supply base and a logistics base and utilize even the Self-Defence Forces of Japan.

The U.S. army held an extremely provocative and adventurous "joint south Korea-U.S. military exercise" codenamed "Team Spirit '78" in south Korea.

The occupation of south Korea by the U.S. troops leads the Korean situation to a brink of war and jeopardizes peace in Korea and places big obstacles in the way of Korea's reunification.

Therefore, the proposed "non-aggression pact," designed for permanent occupation of south Korea by the U.S., doesn't serve to promote Korea's reunification, the supreme task of the Korean people.

In the end, the Pak Jung Hi junta made the proposal for the "non-aggression pact," abusing the word "pact," which is supposed to mean an agreement concluded between equally independent countries. This pact is intended to have the Seoul "regime" recognized internationally as a legitimate state in order to create "two Koreas."

The south Koreans are also stepping up preparations for new war behind the curtain of the "non-aggression pact".

Clamouring about a "non-aggression pact," the south Korean war maniacs have drastically increased their war budget to accelerate the modernization of the "ROK army" equipment and geared all their human and material resouces to augmenting war capabilities.

The south Korean authorities who have already surrendered south Korea as a U.S. military and nuclear base, are planning to receive 8 billion dollars worth of military equipment from the U.S. within four to five years, to "offset" the withdrawal of U.S. forces; they are hell-bent on conducting ceaselessly large-scale war exercises against the northern half of the DPRK.

South Korea now has a regular army, about 700,000 strong, and the "Homeland Defence Reserve Forces," more than 3,000,000 strong, in addition to the 1,700,000 members of the "Civil Defence Corp."

The south Korean authorities conducted the largest-scale military exercise since its formation, dubbed "special exercise to crush communism" and "exercise for mobilizing the Homeland Defence Reserve Forces."

In this way, the Seoul authorities conducted military exercises in order to aggravate tensions right after their proposal for a "non-aggression pact." **(To be continued)**

Korea Is Single Nation

Today, in south Korea they more often than not refer to the "heterogeneity between north and south" or the "orthodoxy of national history".

The motive behind the repeated stress on the "orthodoxy of national history" is to legalize the continuing rule of the Pak "regime" by distorting the historical facts.

The widely-publicized "heterogeneity between north and south" is aimed at rationalizing the perpetuation of Korea's division as "two Koreas".

Anti-National "Heterogeneity"

The so-called "4th International Symposium on Reunification Problem" was held in Seoul in November, 1978 under the sponsorship of the KCIA-run "National Unification Board".

The theme of the symposium was "Ideal and Reality—North and South".

In the symposium advocates of the "heterogeneity between north and south" pointed out that the social system, ideology, language, culture, and customs of the northern half of the Republic have become obviously different from those of south Korea.

They also argue that the national heterogenity problem must take precedence over the reunification issue. They claimed, "We, first of all, have to restore the lost national homogeneity before we talk about the reunification of the Korean Peninsula."

They simply exaggerated the present different ideologies and social systems in the north and south instead of coming up with the proposal for exchange and collaboration between the north and south based on great national unity.

They argue that the "orthodoxy of national history" is to be sought in the south not in the north which, they charge, has become heterogeneous.

Those advocating the heterogeneity are trying to give a little bit historical rationale for the perpetuation of Korea's division as they ballyhoo the view that the Korean nation is not a mono-racial, mono-ethnical nation.

Variant of Past View of Japanese Imperialism

In order to support their view, they claim that the Korean culture to the south of the River Hangang is defferent from that of northern Korea but belongs to the the same cultural zone with western Japan.

This is a contemporary version of Japanese imperialism's past view of aggression on Korea. It serves to rationalize the "two Koreas" policy and the political, economical, military integration of south Korea and Japan.

3 Ancient States Built By Kindred Tribes

The Korean nation is a homogeneous people that has formed a unified country with the Korean language and its uniform national culture.

The process of forming the unified Korean nation is quite different from that of Germany or France.

In case of Germany or France, the Carolingian dynasty which had mono-racial roots split into east and west, giving rise to two different languages—German and French. On these linguistic lines and cultures, Germany and France were formed.

Tribes like Choson, Puyo, Okso, Ye, Han, which formed the Korean nation, had lived in regions of the Korean Peninsula, Manchuria, Yonhaesu and other areas from the primitive times. All these tribes possesed common history as single racial family.

Of them the Korean nation came into being as a single nation creating its own unique culture. The process covered a long period of the palaeolithic age, the neolithic age and the bronze age.

Unique, Homogeneous National Culture

The Korean nation learned to cast bronze in the first half of B.C. 2,000 and created its original bronze culture in the first half of B.C. 1,000.

Lute-shaped bronze sword, bronze halberd and shield, arrow head and various ornaments were manufactured in northwest of Korea and Liaotung in northeastern China.

The bronze culture spread to the southern part of Korea, and in this process Kochoson (Ancient Korea) was built by the Choson tribe in B.C. 500, in the regions comprising northwestern Korea and the River Ryoha region of northeastern China.

In the wake of the establishment of Kochoson, the Puyo tribe that had common culture with Kochoson, built the state of Puyo along the River Sunghua region.

To coincide with the establishment of the state of Puyo, Chinguk was founded by the Han tribe in the midsouthern area of Korea (The Han tribe was divided into three Hans, Mahan, Pyonhan and Chinhan. Chinguk was built mainly by the Mahan tribe.)

In B.C. 400, the bronze culture in the Liaotung area developed slender swords from lute-shaped swords as a result of the formation of acient Korean states which ruled the Korean Peninsula in B.C. 300-200.

In other words, it may be proper to call the culture to the south of the River Chongchon in B.C. 400-100, "slender sword culture".

Nevertheless, the character and form of Chinguk culture was fundamentally the same with Kochoson culture.

The era of B.C. 300 saw a transition from the bronze culture of Kochoson to the iron culture.

The ancient three states, Kochoson, Puyo and Chinguk were taken over by Koguryo, Paekche and Silla.

Koguryo was established in the place of Kochoson, and Paekche and Silla conquered the Mahan tribe.

This history is seriously distorted by the abvocates of the "heterogeneity between north and south." Their point is that the Korean nation and its culture are divided into two zones: One of them is the "northern zone" and the other the "southern zone."

According to them, as Koguryo belongs to the "northern zone" and Paekche and Silla belong to the "southern zone," Koguryo and the other two states differ in the racial and cultural roots.

Thus, the two cultural zones have differing customs and traditions.

However, it is argued that southern Korea belongs to the same cultural zone with Kyushu and western Japan in many respects.

This is why the rulers in Seoul and Tokyo argue: "South Korea and Japan are in the same boat."

"Heterogeneity" Brainchild of Scholars on Payroll of Japanese Imperialism

The "heterogeneity between north and south" is not a new view. Its authors were historians and journalists on the payroll of Japanese imperialism. In colonizing Korea, they argue that Kochoson, Puyo and Kogryo in northern Korea had nothing to do with the Han tribe in southern Korra. They had their own distinctive cultures and languages as the tribes in the northern regions of the Korean Peninsula and those in the south had different origins, they claimed.

The culture and language of three kingdoms had local color but their visible identity as a homogeneous people was overwelmingly clear.

The people of the three kingdoms spoke Korean and shared the same life style. The local features of each kingdom were Korea after all.

Seoul's Intensified Suppression of Human Rights, Press

Kim Dae Jung's Release: Farce

Former south Korean "presidential" candidate Kim Dae Jung was releasd for the first time in three-year custody as a result of the so-called "general amnesty" announced by the Seoul "regime."

Immediately after his release, the 54-year-old politician and Pak's arch political foe, spoke at a press conference and a prayer meeting arranged by the "Korean National Council of Churches (KNCC)," saying that the south Korean "government" would invite ruin to itself should it not mend its ways politically and economically.

He told about 200 well-wishers including ex-"president" Yun Bo Son that he would "fight to the end" for the restoration of full democracy.

The latest abuse of "general amnesty" is simply an American-directed cosmetic approach to mislead the public by creating the impression that the dictatorial Pak junta has consideration for human rights and democracy.

It must be noted that in the "amnesty" the Pak junta intended to confine it to Kim Dae Jung, known to be a political adversary of the junta, and few other persons and leave in jail many other people who have been imprisoned on charges of violation of the "anti-communist law", the "national security law," "public security law" or "emergency decrees."

And, as to the "amnesty" measure for the above persons, it was not a complete release, but "suspension of the execution of penalties."

It is self-evident that south Korea is a strict police state where, as American Methodist missionary George Ogle said when he left south Korea in March, 1976, "Park Chung Hee has turned the country into a garrison state where he and his clique give all orders and his KCIA acts as a gestapo to terrorize the people."

The hard fact is that in south Korea it is a "major anti-state crime" to criticize the Pak junta, call for democracy and strive for reunification.

For example, criticisms of the Pak junta are illegal under the article 4 of the "national security law," article 4 of the "anti-communist law," "emergency regulations" 1 (now repealed), 4 (now repealed), 7 and 9, and article 104 (II) of the south Korean criminal code.

With all the "emergency measures" and the "yusin constitution" remaining intact, all the political prisoners just paroled are kept under constant threats of reimprisonment on charges of violating these laws.

As for Kim Dae Jung, he is not allowed to return to where he was prior to his abduction. Since he is not found "not guilty," he is subject to a rearrest any time.

"Public Security Law"

Under the "public security law" enacted in July, 1975, any person who has once been convicted of a political offense shall be kept under strict police surveillance throughout the rest of his life after his term ends and rejailed without any trial whenever the need arises.

According to its provisions, the main effect of the law is to empower the police authorities to take into "preventive custody" any one-time political offender under the pretext of preventing him from commiting what it called an "anti-state" act again.

In addition to "constant surveillance" any political offender is not up to two years or "preventive detention" at one time but which may be renewed at the discretion of the justice minister.

This means that any person convicted under the "anti-communist law" or other thought control laws may be imprisoned for life by authorities whenever deemed necessary.

The most recent victim of the "public security law" is the Korean student So Jun Sik who completed his prison term of seven years at Chongju Prison, North Cholla Province.

After the first release, he was immediately transferred to Taejon Prison, South Chungchong Province, for the "public security law" was unwarantably applied to him, by which the "government" could extend the actual detention term of any political prisoner indefinitely.

On the other hand, the "general amnesty" was applied to only 5,378 criminals who committed minor offences. The Japanese rightist newspaper "Sankei Shinbun" said that only 30 political prisoners were released through the "general amnesty," including Mr. Kim Dae Jung, but that none of the influential leaders were included among them.

Still in jail are famous anti-Pak poet Kim Ji Ha; Li Yong Gwi and Mun Ik Hwan, former professors at "Hanyang University" and "Hanguk Theological College" respectively; and Christian leader Pak Hyong Gyu.

Poet Kim Ji Ha

Pastor Mun Ik Hwan

Nothing happed to bring south Korea nearer democracy, nor fascist suppression can be changed by any "general amnesty," as long as the junta maintain "anti-communist law," "national security law" and many "emergency measures," and the "yusin system."

The "general amnesty," Kim Dae Jung said, an international fraud.

Trend of Anti-"Gov." Struggle

How does the release of Kim Dae Jung affect the south Korean's struggle against fascism and for democracy?

A feature of the recent struggle is that low-wage workers and peasants are unfolding vigorous struggles in cooperation with the intellectuals, religionists and students, and their struggles spreading from metropolitan Seoul city to the countryside. In addition, they openly demand immediate dissolution of the junta, unconditional release of all the political offenders and guarantee of the three rights of labour.

The following articles which appeared in major Japanese dailies also indicate that effect of the release of Kim Dae Jung can not be overlooked:

"The release of Kim Dae Jung will bring an upsurge in the activity of anti-"government" figures demanding the abolition of the "presidential emergency decrees," because he is a symbol of democratic movements in south Korea." (Mainichi Shinbun)

"There still exists some possibility of his cooperating with radical democrats who demand the restoration of democracy in south Korea." (Yomiuri Shinbun)

"In the future, Kim Dae Jung will become a political center of the labour forces when they start to criticise severely the 'government'". (Asahi Sinbun)

In addition, Opposition leaders including Kim Yong Sam, former president of Opposition "New Democratic Party," visited Kim Dae Jung at his home and talked with him on the future of democratic movements in south Korea when he was released on the occasion of the inauguration ceremony of Pak Jung Hi.

A most remarkable fact is that after his release, the former "presidential" candidate expressed his determination to fight to the end until true democracy is established in south Korea and the reunification of Korea attained.

Kim Dae Jung must be completely released and reinstated to his original status. It must not be a "suspension of the execution of penalty."

If the release of Kim Dae Jung and other democratic figures is to be a release in the literal sense of the word, the brutal "yusin systemmust be abolished and the "anti-communist law," the "national security law," the "public security law" and other fascist evil laws be repealed.

All the illegal penalties inflicted upon patriotic people and democratic figures under the "emergency decrees" and other fascist evil laws must withdrawn and all the prisoners released and the freedom of speech, press, assembly, association and demonstration and the freedom of political activities of the political parties, public organizations and individual personages guaranteed.

NOTE:

Article 4 of the "National Security Law":

(Instigation and Propaganda). If a component of an anti-state organization or a person who had been under instructions from such organization has instigated or propagandized such acts as stipulated as crimes in the preceding three articles, he or she shall be sentenced to penal servitude for not more than ten years.

Article 4 of the "Anti-Communist Law

(Praise, Encouragement, etc.) (1) Any person who has benefited the anti-state organizations by praising, encouraging or siding with or through other means the activities of an anti-state organization or their components or the communist organizations outside the Republic of Korea shall be punished by imprisonment at hard labor for not more than seven years. The same shall apply to the person who has organized or affiliated with the organizations for the purpose of committing such acts.

(2) The same penalty shall apply to any person who has, for the purpose of committing the acts as provided for in the foregoing paragraph, produced, imported, duplicated, kept in custody, transported, disseminated, sold or acquired documents, drawings and any other similar means of expression.

(3) The person who notifies without delay to either investigation or intelligence agency the fact that he has acquired such means of expression as provided for in the foregoing paragraph shall be exempt from punishment.

(4) The attempted offenders mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be subject to punishment.

(5) Any person who has prepared or conspired for the purpose of committing the offenses mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be punished by imprisonment at hard labor for not more than five years.

Kim Dae Jung (center) attended a prayer meeting arranged by the "Korean National Council of Churches" in Seoul on December 28 last and sang a hymn along with his wife and former "president" Yun Bo Son.

Glimpse of South Korea

• 199 traffic accidents occurred in south Korea in the first three days of January, leaving 49 persons dead and over 390 heavily injured, according to a radio report from Seoul on January 4 quoting waterdown data released by the junta.

Within a few hours of the new year's day, 129 traffic accidents occurred, leaving more than 130 persons killed or heavily and lightly injured.

• The junta sheme to raise the water fees by an average of 20 per cent in Seoul from February, according to aradio report from south Korea.

They marked it up by an average of 15 per cent in Seoul in April last year.

• 30 drivers of the Tongmyong Shipping Company in Ryongdangdong, southern district, Pusan, recently waged a sit-down in demand of the payment of a bonus, according to a south Korean radio report.

• A south Korean radio January 5 reported that the boiler operators in Kangnam district, Seoul, were struggling in demand of a wage hike. They said that they were living in dire want, their wages being short of the lowest living cost.

• The south Korean authorities raked up 2,955 million won in Seoul alone last year under the name of passage duties, according to a south Korean radio report.

This is 855 million won more than the planned amount and roguhly double those collected by the puppets in the previous year.

• More than 100 peasants in Masanri, Paekgu-myon, Kimje county, North Cholla Province, on January 4 sent a protest to the Pak junta fought against their scheme to fill in a reservoir, according to a south Korean radio report.

The reservoir has been a support to the poor farming of the local peasants.

• 74 bus conductresses of the Simin Passenger Traffic Company in southern district, Pusan, walked out in protest against the employer's outrageous violation of human rights and for better treatment, according to a Seoul radio report on January 10.

The conductresses of the company surged out of the hostel all at once at three in the morning and started a sit-in to press their five-point demand including a prompt stop to the debasement of their personality and persecution and introduction of a heating system in the hostel.

• The Pak junta decided to fleece the people of a colossal amount of money to the tune of 2,000,000 million won this year under the name of "savings," according to a south Korean radio report on January 8.

The "savings" advertised by the puppet is one of the vicious methods of robbery whereby they assign a certain amount of "savings" to the people and collect them by force.

Mainichi Reporter Expeled from Seoul

The south Korean justice ministry January 8 issued an order to the Seoul correspondent of the Japanese daily "Mainichi Shinbun," telling him to leave south Korea by January 12, on the ground that he "made distorted report about the political situation" in south Korea.

This was the fourth time since 1971 that the junta ordered a Japanese correspondent out of the country in connection with his article published in a mass-circulation Japanese national paper.

The junta Jan. 13 also banned the import and sale of "Mainichi Shinbun" under the pretext that the distribution of the paper is detrimental to the so-called "national interests."

The "government" officials said that the import ban was based on article 7 of the "Law on the Import of Foreign Publications," which prohibits import and distribution of foreign publications considered detrimental to "national interests and public peace."

Protesting against this order, the Japanese reporter said that he believed the intention and purpose of his article was not in contravention of the "emigration and immigration law" of south Korea.

The article, printed on the eve of Pak Jung Hi's "inauguration for his second six-year term," said that the "government" now faces a number of problems including structural corruption, run-away inflation, paced-down economy, independent arms reinforcement following the U.S. troops pullout from south Korea.

It further criticized that the dictatorial "government" has so far dealt with the pending questions in the spheres of economy, military affairs and diplomacy not by following democratic policy but by maintaining the "emergency system".

It said, as a result, that Opposition voices are louder than before, criticisms of Pak's rule are mounting at home and abroad and dissidence was expected to gain momentum now that imprisoned Opposition leader Kim Dae Jung has been released.

Pressmen and publications are suffered to report the truth. This is their mission publicly recognized by the international community and their inviolable elementary right.

Ever since the junta seized power at the point of bayonet, they have harshly cracked down upon the press and viciously suppressed even foreign correspondents and publications to prevent them from reporting the truth about south Korea and to hold in check the courageous struggle of the south Korean people against fascism and for democracy.

The south Korean authorities' measure against the "Mainichi" followed its similar moves against the "Yomiuri Shinbun," another major Japanese daily, in May 1977.

At that time, the south Korean authorities ordered the Seoul bureau of the "Yomiuri Shinbun" to be closed, banned the distribution of the paper and ordered its Seoul correspondents to leave south Korea, immediately after the Executive Managing Editor of the paper made a favourable comment on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea during his stay there.

On the other hand, in last February, south Korea barred entry of former Washington Post correspondent John Saar as a "persona non granta" because of his "consistently prejudiced and biased" reporting on south Korea in the past.

At present, there are in south Korea about ten other resident Japanese newsmen representing news agencies, trade papers and radio-television networks.

NHK TV Film Seized

The Japanese semi-governmental broadcasting station NHK TV had its film seized by the south Korean custom authorities. It featured the former south Korean "presidential" candidate Kim Dae Jung who had spoken at a prayer meeting arranged by the "Korean National Council of Churches (KNCC)".

According to the Seoul branch of NHK, this film, scheduled to be loaded on a Korean Air Lines (KAL) plane, was took over at the time of custom clearance, on the ground that the film was detrimental to "national interests" and vitiated public morals. (Article 146 of the "Customs Law")

In connection with this, the Seoul branch of the Japanese broadcasting station lodged a protest with the south Korean puppet ministry of culture and information, saying that the act constituted a violation of freedom of the press.

Former reporters of the south Korean mass-circulation daily "Tong-A Ilbo" raised their hand demonstrating their determination to fight to the end after reading an declaration demanding the freedom of press. (March, 1975)

Rodong Sinmun Flays Pak's New Year Preaching

The Pak Jung Hi puppet clique are these days preaching the spirit of "industry," "self-help" and "co-operation" to the people with a loud cry for "spiritual arming." Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the Workers' Party of Korea) January 6 in a commentary branded this as a shameless sophistry.

The author of the commentary says:

It is preposterous to preach such sermon to the people in such corrupt society as south Korea where the foreign aggressor forces and traitors hand in glove with them lord it over and the "the rich get richer and the poor poorer."

Especially, "cooperation" between the rulers and the working people is out of question.

Noting that a heinous design lurks behind the absurd preaching of the puppets, the commentary says:

They intend to convince people that the south Korean people themselves are to blame for their going in rags and hunger, tame the people as obedient sheep to freely fleece them and enjoy luxury and prosperity and realise their ambition for long-term office.

The commentary further says:

The puppet reveals his true color of a beast in suppressing and murdering people and the craftiness of a fox in appeasing and deceiving the people.

It is a most shameless balderdash to argue that the south Korean people live in want because they do not work hard.

The south Korean people toil and moil to eke out a living in that inhuman society.

The workers there are forced to work 12 to 18 hours a day. But they go hungry and their lives are threatened, the fruits of their labour snatched by the exploiters.

The streets and backlanes are flooded with millions of unemployed and semi-unemployed people roaming about to find jobs, and millions of peasants are suffering from hunger, left without food already in early autumn.

On DPRK-USA Peace Talks (1)

THE PEOPLE'S KOREA will present a series of three articles dealing with Pyongyang's proposal for direct negotiations with Washington on the conclusion of a bilateral peace agreement, Washington's reaction to it and the possible process of national reunification. The following is the first:

These days Washington is repeatedly calling for a "three-party talks"—Pyongyang, Seoul and Washington—as a preliminary step toward the solution of the long-standing Korean issue, in place of former State Secretary Kissinger's plan for "four-party" or "six-party" negotiations.

Pyongyang's response to this is the reiterated proposal for two-party talks between the DPRK and the USA. It has already proposed bilateral negotiations on the conclusion of a peace agreement to replace the existing armistice agreement, as the two nations are the very signatories to the Jul. 27, 1953 armistice agreement to which Seoul is not a party.

Pyongyang holds that the bilateral peace agreement can put an end to the 34-year-long American involvement in Korea, the main obstacle to the solution of the Korean issue. American disengagement from south Korea will eventually lead to the long-awaited independent and peaceful reunification of Korea divided by the foreign forces into north and south.

Pyongyang's viewpoint is that Korea's reunification is entirely an internal affair of the nation which should be solved by the Koreans themselves, so it presupposes the removal of foreign forces' interference in the issue.

President Kim Il Sung told in 1976 the Tanjug foreign news editor on a visit to Pyongyang:

"The first question which must be solved for the independent, peaceful reunification of Korea is the withdrawal of all foreign troops from south Korea and the replacement of the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement, in accordance with the resolution of the 30th UN General Assembly."

From this point of view, Pyongyang has consistently called upon Washington to agree to bilateral negotiations with it on the conclusion of a peace agreement. But for the American involvement, the Koreans in north and south could bring a new phase to their mutual efforts to peacefully reunify their divided country by themselves on a democratic basis. No outside forces, not to speak of the US, are in a position to meddle in this matter, as the Koreans are entitled to the universally acknowledged right to national self-determination.

Pyongyang's Overtures

In a letter addressed to the U.S. Congress, the Supreme People's Assembly, the DPRK's legislature, proposed on Mar. 25, 1974 to conclude a peace agreement with the US which may include the following measures:

"Firstly, both sides shall pledge to each other not to invade the other side and shall remove all dangers of direct armed conflict.

"The United States shall be duty-bound not to incite the south Korean authorities to war provocation maneuvers of fascist repression of the south Korean people or patronize them, not to prevent north and south Korea from reunifying it independently and peacefully in accordance with the north-south joint statement and not to meddle in the internal affairs of Korea otherwise.

"Secondly, both sides shall discontinue the reinforcement of armed force and arms drive and stop introducing any weapons, combat equipment and war supplies from beyond the boundary of Korea.

"Thirdly, the foreign troops in south Korea shall strip themselves of the 'UN forces' helmet and all of them withdraw at the earliest possible date, taking all their weapons along.

"Fourthly, Korea shall not be reduced to a military or operational base for any foreign country after the withdrawal of all the foreign troops from south Korea.

"The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea formally proposes that talks be held for the conclusion of a peace agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America, with the above-mentioned measures as a premise.

"The talks may be composed of delegates of a level higher than those to the Military Armistice Commission now functioning at Panmdnjom, and Panmunjom or a third country may be designated as the place of talks."

In the following year, a resolution on Korea was adopted at the 30th UNGA in support of Pyongyang's positive initiatives.

There has been since found no change in Pyongyang's standpoint on the direct DPRK-USA talks. Yet, so far Pyongyang has got no word from Washington.

In his New Year address for 1977, President Kim Il Sung personally urged that Washington should comply with Pyongyang's proposal to sign a peace agreement.

Addressing the Pyongyang rally to welcome visiting Chinese Premier Hua Kuo-feng last May, President Kim Il Sung refused Washington's renewed plea for the so-called three-party talks, and reclarified Pyongyang attitude:

"If the United States truly wants peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification, it must not bring forward various unrealistic conditions but seek a way for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question above all through contacts with the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as we have already proposed."

Pyongyang's new overtures came out in an article of its official party organ Rodong Sinmun, Dec. 23, welcoming the recent Sino-American rapprochement. It emphasized:

Since the United States, in opening diplomatic relations with China, pledged not to seek hegemony in Asia-Pacific region or any other region of the world, terminate the mutual defense treaty between the United States and Taiwan and to withdraw its troops from Taiwan in the near future, there is no ground that it cannot do the same thing in south Korea.

(To be continued...)

Seoul Records $2.3 Bil. Trade Deficit '78

According to the Asian Wall Street Journal quoting an AFP despatch from Seoul, south Korea last year recorded a huge trade deficit amounting to 2,349 million dollars, a sharp increase as against the 1977 figure of 764 million dollars. In particular, the trade deficit with Japan increased nearly two times, three billion dollars last year from 1,778 million dollars in 1977. These figures were released by the "Commerce-Industry Ministry" on Jan. 6.

Meanwhile, the "Central Bank of Korea" last week reported that south Korea showed a 1978 current account deficit of one billion dollars due to a wide gap in the trade account. It was the widest gap in three years.

The deficits of south Korea were two billion dollars in 1974 and 1.8 billion dollars in 1975, following the Arab oil squeeze, the bank said.

The bank listed south Korean imports and exports, both on an FOB basis, as 14.6 billion dollars and 12.7 billion dollars, respectively, resulting in a trade deficit of 1.9 billion dollars in 1978. The 1977 trade gap was 477 million dollars, it added.

DECLINING EXPORTS

South Korean companies fear that south Korea's international competitiveness in key exports will be weakened by "rising wage rates." "The symptoms are already visible in textiles, some steel products and plywood," Hwang Il Chung, vice-president of Ajou Institute of Technology said in an interview with the Asian Wall Street Journal.

Seoul has so far put spurs to exports, maintaining low production costs through cheaper domestic labour force.

The latest labour office statistics reveal that the cases of labour disputes totalled more than 7,500 in the first half of last year.

LACK OF FUND

"In order to export, we've got to keep investing," Kim Ip Sam, president of the "Federation of Korean Industries," told the Asian Wall Street Journal. "How do we get the urgently required investment funds for export-oriented industries? One of the crucial issues will be the tight-money-supply policy," he added.

In an effort to collect funds, Seoul of late declared that this year it would introduce 2,300 million dollars of foreign loans, 600 million dollars larger than last year's foreign loans.

It is reported that south Korea had foreign debts to the tune of 8,108 million dollars as of the end of 1977, as a result of a massive influx of foreign loans. This means 1,000 dollars of foreign debts per household of south Korea. The loans to be repaid by Seoul from 1977 to 1981, with the principal and interest put together, run to 10,028 million dollars.

CHRONIC INFLATION

The "government" has issued paper currency without security. This causes chronic inflation, sending prices sky-high.

"Currency issue increased by 40 percent last year, but the economic scale grew only about 10 percent. It would have been a miracle, if inflation had not occurred," said a south Korean economist.

He also pointed out, "Commodity prices rose about the 10 percent limit of annual price increase in the first half of last year."

According to the statistics released by the "Economic Planning Board," retail prices rose 16.4 percent and wholesale prices 12.2 percent last year.

Observers here say that south Korea's economic planners are forced to lower this year's target for economic growth in a bid to cut back the rising inflation rate that now stands at 15 percent or more, double the U.S. rate.

Seoul's spurious slogans of "modernization" and "growth" are challenged by the omnipresent gloomy symptoms.

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